

Agriculture programs funded in Nelson

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TOM DEKLE NEWS/PHOTO EDITOR

Nelson County has been approved for an allocation of a little over \$180,000 in agriculture diversification funds through the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy has announced.

About \$130,000 will be available this summer through five model cost-share programs administered locally by various agencies, according to extension agent Ron Bowman. The rest will become available in October.

The Nelson County Agriculture Development Board is the primary administrator of the funds, which originate from money received through the Master Settlement Agreement reached several years ago with tobacco companies. By statute, Kentucky puts half of the money it receives through the agreement into agricultural diversification.

The eight-member agriculture development board in Nelson County divides the money between various organizations that apply to administer the funds.

The board includes two members from the Farm Service Agency, two members from the Soil Conservation District, two members from the Agricultural Extension Service and two farmers appointed by the board.

Model programs funded this year in Nelson County include: \$10,000 for Dairy Cattle Genetics; \$50,000 for Cattle Handling; \$8,000 for Agricultural Diversification; \$60,000 for Hay, Straw and Commodity Storage; and \$2,000 for Goat Diversification.

Bowman said an additional \$50,000 has been allocated to the Beef Genetics program but that money will not become available until October. All funds are available by way of 50-50 grants.

In the past the money has been distributed on a first come first serve basis, Bowman said.

This year a grading and scoring system will be employed for the dairy genetics, cattle handling and hay and straw programs, Bowman said.

Applicants will receive money based on how they score on their applications, not the order in which it is received, Bowman said.

Applications for the dairy cattle genetics program will be accepted July 24-28 at the Nelson County Soil Conservation District



TOM DEKLE/The Kentucky Standard - Rickie O'Daniel of Bluegrass Seed and Fertilizer Co. hefts a bale of hay onto a wagon Friday in a field at the corner of American Lane and Woodlawn Road. Driving the tractor is John Fenwick. The 65-acre field is leased by Bluegrass Seed and Fertilizer and another 150 acres of wheat straw has already been harvested from another field, O'Daniel said.

office at 2001 Buchanan Blvd. The limit is \$1,000 and applications will be received only on a walk-in basis. The Soil Conservation District is the administrator for this program.

Applications for the cattle handling programs will be received at the Nelson County Extension Office, July 24-28. There is a limit of \$1,000 for the 50/50 grants, to be administered by Nelson County Beef Cattle Association. If there are questions, call Ron Bowman, 348-9204.

Applications for the Hay, Straw and Commodity Storage program will be accepted July 24-28 at the Soil Conservation District office. Applications will have a \$2,500 limit on a 50/50 grant basis and will be accepted by appointment only. Call 348-3363 after July 19 for an appointment.

Dates have not yet been set for the agricultural diversification and goat diversification programs.

Central Kentucky Meat Goat Association will administer the goat funds. Nelson County Chamber of Commerce will administer the agriculture diversification funds.

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